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#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This baseline study documents the characteristics (represented by demographic statistics as well as explanations of community identity) of the existing social and economic environment in Grand County, Utah. Because Grand County lies entirely within the administration of the Moab Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and because actions related to land management will affect this geographic area with revisions of the BLM, Moab Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP), this study will be used in evaluating potential, relative changes to the social and economic environment. Specifically, alternatives that are developed for potential implementation in the RMP will be preliminarily assessed in terms of degree, type, and quality of impact upon the social and economic environment when compared to this baseline study.

Grand County is situated in the eastern part of Utah, bordered by Emery County to the west, Uintah County to the north, San Juan County to the south, and the state of Colorado to the east. The County is large in acreage and small in population. An approximately 300,000-acre portion of San Juan County falls under the jurisdiction of the Moab Field Office. A separate socioeconomic report discussing San Juan County is being prepared; that report should be consulted for information regarding the portion of San Juan County administered by the Moab Field Office.

#### 1.1 General Methodology

Social and economic analysis has traditionally involved gathering available data to prepare a report describing the area. While this is always an important step in understanding a community, an additional, crucial step was taken in attempt to understand and document conditions in Grand County: collaboration with its citizens and other interested parties.

With the assistance of the Sonoran Institute, a workshop was held in Grand County to present preliminary data and to get feedback on whether this data accurately described the community. Participants in the Grand County workshop consisted of business owners, elected officials, scientists, and citizens. Workshop participants were asked to comment on the data to be used as well as supplement the data with their perceptions and values. The results of this workshop have been incorporated into this baseline report and are used frequently to help describe data and trends.

#### 1.2 Sources and Assumptions

A social and economic assessment uses quantitative, qualitative and participatory methods of data collection. The Sonoran Institute has developed an automated system for developing customized socioeconomic profiles. Called the Economic Profile System (EPS), it allows users to automatically and efficiently produce socioeconomic profiles for any region in the western United States. The profile contains tables and figures that illustrate long-term trends in population, employment, and personal income by industry, average earnings, business development, commuting patterns, and agriculture, as well as retirement and other non-labor income. It includes information derived from the 2000 Census, the Bureau of Economic

Analysis, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition to the EPS-generated data, the following sources were used to supplement the analysis.

- Utah Department of Workforce Services
- Utah Travel Council
- Grand County General Plan
- Minerals Management Revenue Service
- State of Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

#### 1.3 Context and History

The economy of the West has changed dramatically in the last 50 years. While the West once represented an expanse of opportunity to gain wealth from the land, economies in the West have since grown more diverse, typically relying on many other sectors of the economy for sustainability. As more people are moving to rural areas, Western communities are experiencing the largest population boom ever, and Grand County residents have expressed this trend as a challenge. With growth comes the challenge of maintaining the rural identity of a community, while also maintaining a healthy sustainable economy (Sonoran Institute 2003).

The City of Moab is no exception to what is occurring in other towns in the West. Population patterns have followed the shift in economy. The uranium boom of the 1950s brought population growth to the Moab area and Grand County. Arches National Park was established in 1971, which brought visitors to the area. During the 1970s and 1980s, Moab became well known for mountain biking and river resources. The Slickrock Bike Trail in particular was instantly popular with the mountain biking community (Grand County General Plan Update 2003). These changes are evident in both the social and economic characteristics of Grand County.

Western rural towns are often surrounded by public lands and, therefore, are affected by decisions that are made with regard to these lands. In Grand County this is the case; of a total of approximately 2.3 million acres, approximately 1.7 million are public, and approximately 1.5 million are BLM-administered lands. Table 1 shows the land composition of the County.

Table 1. Land Jurisdiction in Grand County				
	Total Acres	% of County		
Federal Lands	1,694,128	71.0		
BLM Lands	1,559,814	66.0		
USFS	27,321	1.2		
National Park	75,362	3.2		
State Lands	365,255	15.5		
Private	100,763	4.3		
American Indian	198,090	8.4		
Total Acres Within the County	2,363,594	100.0		
Source: Utah Division of Travel Development, 2002				

## 1.4 Relationship to the Grand County General Plan

The Grand County General Plan was developed with the input and guidance of Grand County residents. As such, it is a reflection of the values and goals of the community and is used to inform the social and economic assessment for the RMP. The 2003 draft of the plan states the following vision:

Grand County is known for its rural environment and the ease of access to high quality open space – preservation of these characteristics is a priority. It thrives on a strong sense of community characterized by a high level of respect shared among its diverse population, broad support of community institutions, the provision of quality services to all regardless of income, and by meeting real human needs with increased economic diversity, high quality education, health care and affordable housing (Draft Grand County General Plan 2003).

The plan states that the public lands in Grand County are the foundation of the County's economic prosperity. Economic benefit is derived from the management of public lands for multiple uses, including livestock grazing, tourism, mineral exploration, recreation, watershed protection, hunting, and the film industry. Grand County's goal is to achieve a stable economic base while minimizing degradation of the economic, social, ecological, and cultural resources of the public lands. Through a series of policies, Grand County has outlined the importance of coordinating planning efforts with the BLM for the economic benefit of the County.

#### 2.0 SOCIAL SETTING

## 2.1 Community Identity

Through workshops with the Sonoran Institute and using the EPS software, a cross-section of the Grand County community gathered to express its identity and values. In particular, Moab's identity is as a recreation community with a high quality of life. The attractions for visitors are also the reasons that permanent residents give for their high quality of life. The Moab area also prides itself on its diversity. Presently, residents feel that much of the economy in the Moab area is centered on the recreation industry. When asked to identify the unique characteristics of the community, the Socioeconomic Discussion Group specified the following:

- Public lands and parks
- Diversity of population
- Diversity of area settlement
- Being a gateway to public land and park access

When asked about weaknesses in their community, the group identified the following:

- Seasonality of the economy
- Shortage of medical facilities and providers
- Lack of diversity in the economy
- Low average annual salary

The points raised by the discussion group were used to check for correlations between the perception of the community and the actual data.

#### 2.2 Current Social Characteristics

#### 2.2.1 Profile of the Grand County Population

In 2000, the U.S. Census reported a population of 8,485 in Grand County, a 28% increase from 1990 (Census 2000). The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget for the state of Utah projects that population will reach 9,349 by 2005 and will reach 10,288 by 2030. The annual population growth rate of Grand County is slower than that of the state of Utah: approximately 1.9% annual growth in the County, versus 2.3% annual growth in the state. From 1970 to 2000, Grand County grew by 1,910 people, a 29% increase in population. The greatest concentration of people is in Moab, where the population is 4,779. Moab serves as the cultural and political center of the County. Unincorporated areas account for 3,357 people, most of whom live immediately south of Moab. One other incorporated area within the County is Castle Valley, with a population of 349.

Grand County's population is older than the Utah state average. The median age for the County is 35.6, whereas the state's median age is 27.5. Median age rose by 4% between 1990 and 2000, showing that the community is aging. Another indicator of an aging population is the continuing decline of school-aged children since 1995 (Grand County General Plan Update 2003).

Table 2. Population by Category in Grand County, 1990 and 2000						
	1990	% of Total	2000	% of Total	% Chg 1990 - 2000	% Chg per Year 1990 – 2000*
Population	6,620		8,485		28%	2.50%
Male	3,214	49%	4,163	49%	30%	2.66%
Female	3,406	51%	4,322	51%	27%	2.42%
Under 20 years	2,250	34%	2,496	29%	11%	0.96%
65 years or over	826	12%	1,061	13%	28%	2.50%
Source: Sonoran Institute, EPS, 2003 and *BLM staff.						

Of the total population of Grand County, 92.6% are white, and 3.9% are American Indian. Approximately 5.6% of the population is Hispanic (Census 2000).

#### 2.2.2 Population Migration

While the population of Grand County has steadily grown over the last 30 years, the migration patterns have experienced slight dips and peaks. In the mid 1970s, the population increased dramatically as a result of the energy boom. Throughout the 1980s, out-migration of the population occurred as the energy market fell. The population continued to decline until the early 1990s, when the tourist economy began to emerge in Grand County. The population migration patterns through the 1980s and 1990s in Grand County indicate the relationship of the economy to the increase in population, and are depicted in Figure 1.

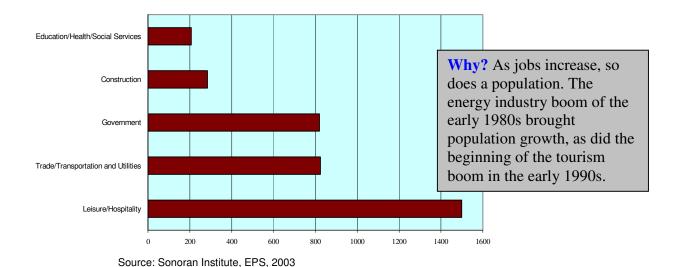


Figure 1. Population migration in Grand County, 1970–2000. 2.2.3 Housing

Grand County has a total of 4,062 housing units, 84.5% of which are occupied. Of these units, 6.8% are for seasonal and recreational use, and 29% are renter-occupied. Average household size is 2.5 residents, lower than the state's average. The median housing price in 1999 was \$120,000, up from \$105,000 in 1997. Table 3 shows that seasonal housing is much more than the state average, at 6.8% (Census 2000).

Table 3. Population by Household Type in Grand County, 2000					
	County	% of Total	State	% of Total	
Total Housing Units	4,062		768,594		
Occupied Housing Units	3,434	84.5%	701,281	91.2%	
Vacant Housing Units	628	15.5%	67,313	8.8%	
For Seasonal, Recreational, or Occ. Use	276	6.8%	29,685	3.9%	
Homeowner Vacancy Rate (%)	2.0%		2.1%		
Rental Vacancy Rate (%)	13.4%		6.5%		
Housing Tenure	County	% of Occ.	State	% of Occ.	
Occupied Housing Units	3,434		701,281		
Owner-occupied Housing Units	2,437	71.0%	501,547	71.5%	
Renter-occupied Housing Units	997	29.0%	199,734	28.5%	
Avg Household Size - Owner Occupied	2.5		3.3		
Avg Household Size - Renter Occupied	2.4		2.8		
Source: Sonoran Institute, EPS, 2003		<u> </u>			

#### 3.0 ECONOMIC SETTING

Several indicators show the composition of a community's economy. Job base and business composition show the relationship between the economy and people, and market sectors are indicators of the relationship between the economy and the land base.

## 3.1 Employment

Jobs are typically classified with two systems: the Standard Industrial Classification System (SIC) and the National American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). Each system categorizes jobs differently. Historically, SIC codes have been used to describe employment, but they are limited in their scope. The more recent NAICS codes provide more detail but fail to show historic patterns. Both systems are used for this baseline study.

At present, most employment in Grand County (70.4%) is in the Services and Professional sector. Government jobs account for 14.9% of all jobs. The remainder of jobs are in Farm and Agricultural Services, Mining, and Manufacturing. Note that the Services sector includes services, retail trade, finance industries, transportation and public utilities, and wholesale trade, essentially everything that is not farming, mining, or government. Of these subcategories, services provide 32% of total employment, and retail trade accounts for 29% of total employment.

Table 4. Employment by Industry in Grand County						
	1970	% of Total	2000	% of Total	New Employment	% of New Employment
Total Employment	2,724		5,692		2,968	
Wage and Salary Employment	2,320	85.2%	4,424	77.7%	2,104	70.9%
Proprietors' Employment	404	14.8%	1,268	22.3%	864	29.1%
Farm and Agricultural Services	84	3.1%	146	2.6%	62	2.1%
Farm	78	2.9%	93	1.6%	15	0.5%
Ag. Services	6	0.2%	53	0.9%	47	1.6%
Mining	549	20.2%	120	2.1%	-429	NA
Manufacturing (incl. forest products)	88	3.2%	138	2.4%	50	1.7%
Services and Professional	1,289	47.3%	4,009	70.4%	2,720	91.6%
Transportation & Public Utilities	183	6.7%	147	2.6%	-36	NA
Wholesale Trade	55	2.0%	107	1.9%	52	1.8%
Retail Trade	425	15.6%	1,628	28.6%	1,203	40.5%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	115	4.2%	315	5.5%	200	6.7%
Services (Health,						
Legal, Business, Others)	511	18.8%	1,812	31.8%	1,301	43.8%
Construction	211	7.7%	433	7.6%	222	7.5%
Government	503	18.5%	846	14.9%	343	11.6%

Agricultural Services include soil preparation services, crop services, etc. It also includes forestry services, such as reforestation services, and fishing, hunting, and trapping. Manufacturing includes paper, lumber and wood products manufacturing.

Source: Sonoran Institute, EPS, 2003

According to the NAICS codes, which show employment in more detail, Leisure and Hospitality comprise approximately 1,500 jobs in Grand County. The number of jobs in this sector is almost double that of any other job sector in the County. Both community perceptions and the data shown below suggest that most jobs are either indirectly or directly related to the tourist industry.

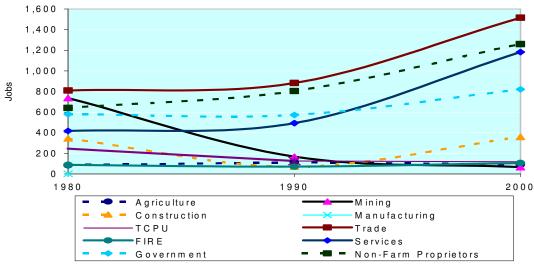


Figure 2. Job base (by SIC code) in Grand County.

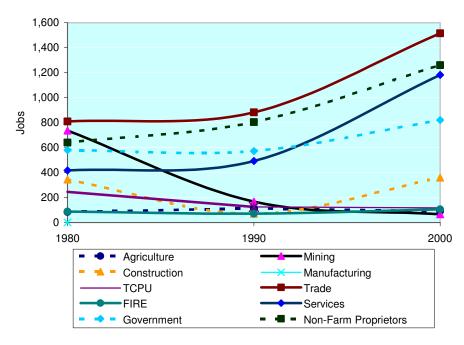
With improvements in telecommuting technology, it is becoming easier for professionals to work remotely. This trend has been identified by citizens and business owners in Grand County as being beneficial to the economy because it permits greater diversity in the Services sector. Residents currently feel that the County's economy is too dependent on service jobs related to the tourism industry, which almost always offers lower wages and less stability. According to the Sonoran Institute, three major components must be in place to attract a more diverse Services sector: infrastructure, an airport, and health care.

Thirty percent of all new employment and 22% of all employment in Grand County is from sole proprietors. Over the last 30 years, job growth has been slower in Grand County than in the rest of the nation. The largest employers in Grand County are:

- Grand County School District
- City Market
- Allen Memorial Hospital
- Federal Government
- Grand County

Perhaps more important to understanding the economy of Grand County are trends in economic activity. Between 1980 and 2000, Grand County's economy and the overall Moab economy have experienced a dramatic shift in job base. As shown in the graph below, the economy shifted away from mining in the late 1980s. Discussions with the community identified this curve as the uranium bust. As the number of jobs decreased in mining, jobs in trade and services increased

dramatically. This trend was identified by the community as a shift from a mining economy to a tourism economy.



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services with calculations for % change completed by Moab Field Office.

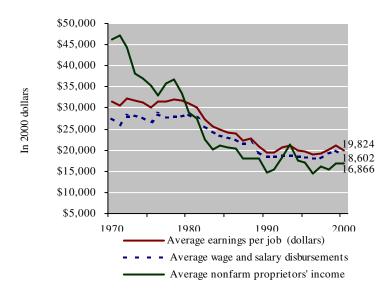
\*Transportation. Communications and Public Utilities

\*\*Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

Figure 3. Changes in the Grand County economy (by SIC code), 1980-2000.

Table 5. Trends in E	Table 5. Trends in Employment (SIC code), Grand County, 1980, 1990, and 2000				
Industry	1980	1990	2000	% Change from 1980	
Mining	18%	5%	1%	-94%	
Construction	9%	2%	6%	-33%	
Manufacturing	2%	2%	1%	-50%	
TCPU (Trans./Comm./Public Util.)	6%	4%	2%	-67%	
Trade	20%	26%	27%	35%	
FIRE (Finance, Insurance, Real Estate)	2%	2%	2%	0%	
Services	10%	15%	21%	110%	
Government	14%	17%	15%	7%	
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services with calculations for % change completed by Moab Field Office.					

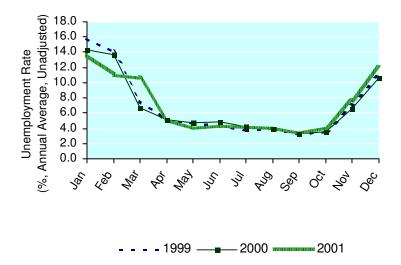
Trends in job earnings have also changed over the last two decades as industries have changed. Over the last 20 years, earnings have dropped, from over \$30,000 annually to just over \$19,000 annually. The average non-farm proprietor income dropped dramatically, from over \$45,000 to just over \$16,000 per year.



Why? A change in the economy can bring about changes in earning. If mining was the primary income source of jobs in the early 80s, and mining paid higher incomes, then as the economy shifts, so will income. Hourly wages are typically lower in the services sector. So as the economy shifted from mining to services, income naturally drops with wages.

Figure 4. Average earnings in Grand County, 1970–2000.

Unemployment in Grand County is higher than the state or national average. In 2001, the unemployment rate in Grand County was 6.7%, compared to 4.4% for the state and 4.8% for the nation. Unemployment rates also change dramatically through the year in Grand County. In the summer months, unemployment matches the state average more closely, while in winter, unemployment is extremely high, reaching over 15% in recent years. Members of the community cite seasonality of employment as one reason for this trend. Since tourism is a major factor in the job base, and tourism is highest from spring through fall, jobs are more abundant during these times. The community gives a second reason for a high unemployment rate in Grand County: lifestyle choice. Residents may be intentionally choosing jobs or careers that are seasonal in nature. The table below shows the seasonality of employment in Grand County, with unemployment rates highest in the winter months for 1999, 2000 and 2001.



Why? Seasonal employment follows closely the seasonal economy of Moab. Since tourism drives the economy, jobs are abundant during peak seasons (April through October) and scarce during low seasons (November through March).

Figure 5. Seasonal unemployment in Grand County, 1999–2001.

## 3.2 Composition of Businesses

A second way to look at the economy of an area is to look at the composition of businesses. The following table shows the composition of businesses in Grand County. Consistent with the composition of jobs, the highest number of businesses is in the services industry. The high number of accommodation- and food service-type businesses reflects the overall reliance of the economy on tourism services.

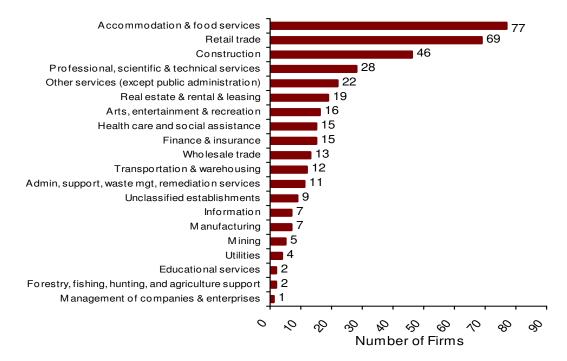


Figure 6. Composition of businesses in Grand County.

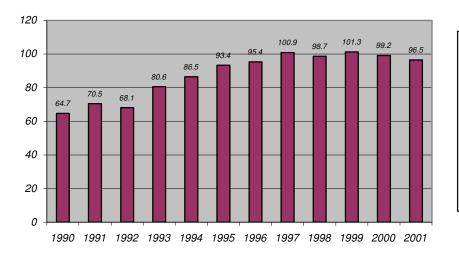
## 3.3 Specific Sectors of the Economy

While employment and business composition help illuminate the relationship between economy and people, sectors of the economy help describe the relationship between the economy and the land. Tourism, agriculture, oil and gas, and to a certain extent, services are described below.

#### 3.3.1 Tourism

The tourism industry is certainly a large contributor to the Grand County economy. The Utah Travel Council publishes various measures of tourist activity in each county in Utah. Tourist spending, visitation to locations in close proximity, and tax collections for tourism activity help to describe tourism in Grand County and its importance to the overall economy.

Trends in traveler spending follow trends shown in other measures of the economy. Coinciding with the uranium bust (ca. 1990), traveler spending was slightly over \$60 million. Traveler spending in Grand County peaked in 1997, at over \$100 million. Traveler spending was slightly down in 2001 from 2000, at approximately \$96 million.



Why? The drop in tourist spending can be attributed to a drop in the overall economy of the nation. One reason identified by the community is the events of September 2001 that lowered travel numbers from previous years.

Figure 7. Tourist spending in millions, Grand County, 1990–2001.

The State of Utah Travel Council reports several additional figures related to tourism, including tax revenue from tourist activity. Local sales tax revenue from traveler spending was estimated at just over \$2 million, 2.7% less than in 2000.

Table 6. Tourism-related Taxes in Grand County, 2001		
Moab City Sales Tax	\$971,215	
Moab Municipal Highway Tax	\$242,804	
County Sales Tax @.25%	\$350,560	
State Sales Tax	\$391,631	
Resort Tax	\$1,390,475	
Total Local Sales Tax	\$3,346,685	
Tourist Related (58.6% of above)	\$1,961,157	

Table 6. Tourism-related Taxes in Grand County, 2001		
Transient Room Tax	\$786,100	
Restaurant Tax	\$170,800	
Car Rental	\$13,800	
Grand Total	\$2,931,857	

Visitation to the Grand County area remained high in 2001. The following table shows visitation to several locations in Grand County, outside of BLM lands, that can be used as indicators for visitation.

Table 7. Visitation to Local Attractions in Grand County, 2001		
Count Location Visitors		
I-70 UT/CO Traffic County	2,314,830	
Thompson Springs Welcome Center	97,896	
Glen Canyon N.R.A.	2,586,111	
Arches N.P.	786,429	
Canyonlands N.P.	401,558	
Dead Horse Point S.P.	173,680	
Green River S.P.	138,531	
Source: Utah Travel Council, 2002		

A BLM Moab Field Office study indicates there were at least 1.6 million recreational visitors to BLM lands in the Moab Field Office in 2002 (Goldhor, Stevens, 2003). This number exceeds visitation to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks and local State Parks combined. More information on visitation is found in the Recreation section of the Analysis of the Management Situation.

## 3.3.2 Agriculture

The agriculture industry has declined dramatically in the last three decades. In 1970, total net income from farming and ranching in Grand County was \$901,000. By 1985, that number had dropped to \$88,000. In 2000 this number had dropped to \$-830,000. Negative income means that expenses outweighed revenue for farming and ranching operations. Most agricultural income (approximately 80%) is from cash receipts from livestock and crops, while the remaining 20% is from government payments.

The composition of livestock and crops has also shifted in the last decade. In 1970, 73% of gross farm income was from livestock, while 9% was from crops. By 2000, 47% of gross income was from livestock, and 32% from crops. The graph below shows trends in agriculture as it relates to personal income since 1970.

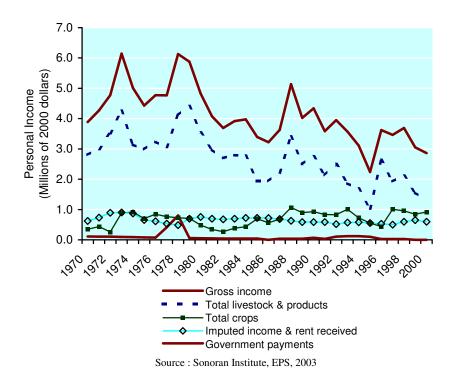


Figure 8. Gross personal income from agriculture, by income type, Grand County, 1970–2000.

Figure 9 shows that personal income from agriculture has dropped dramatically. Beginning in 1981, net income from agriculture dipped into negative numbers. Countywide net income was lowest in 1996, at a loss of \$1.5 million.

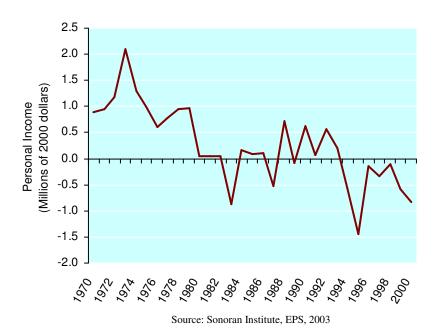
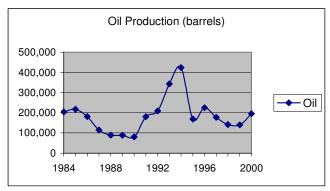
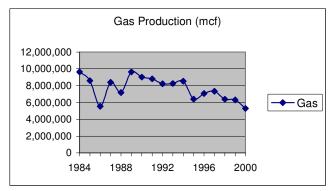


Figure 9. Net personal income from agriculture, Grand County, 1970–2000.

#### 3.3.3 Oil and Gas

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining keeps records of oil and gas production as well as number of wells drilled. Oil production peaked in 1994, but dropped to approximately 200,000 barrels in 2000. Gas production has fallen since 1984, from approximately 10 million cubic feet (mcf) to under 6 million mcf in 2000.

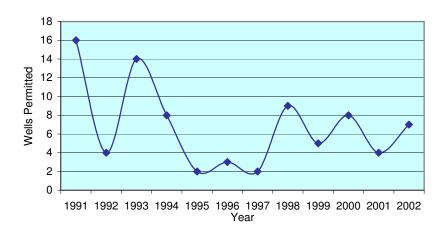




Source: State of Utah, Division of Oil Gas and Mining, 2003

Figure 10. Oil (barrels) and gas production (mcf) in Grand County, 1984-2000.

The number of permits for wells in Grand County has fluctuated but has decreased overall in the last decade.



Source: State of Utah, Division of Oil Gas and Mining, 2003

Figure 11. Wells permitted in Grand County, 1991–2002.

The United States Energy Information Administration reported an average wellhead crude oil price of \$26.72 in 2000, up from \$15.56 in 1999. An average value of \$3.69 mcf was reported for natural gas in 2000, increasing from \$2.19 in 1999. Royalties based on the sale of oil and gas are returned to the state of Utah and Grand County and increase or decrease based on quantity of production and prices.

Over the last 100 years, a large number of oil and gas wells have been drilled in Grand County. Most of these, however, are no longer producing and have been long since abandoned. The following table summarizes the current (late 2003) production situation in Grand County:

Table 8. Current Oil and Gas Activity on Lands Administered by the Moab Field Office		
Activity	Number	
Producing gas wells	244	
Producing oil wells	30	
Shut-in gas wells	113	
Shut-in oil wells	51	
Acres under lease (BLM lands only)	490,079	
Source: BLM Moab Field Office		

Shut-in wells are wells which are currently not in production, but which could resume operations in a relatively short period of time. Thus, the numbers above can and do fluctuate between shut-in and producing. The acres under lease represent approximately 41 % of BLM lands available for lease in Grand County.

The economic benefit to Grand County of oil and gas activities comes primarily in the form of mineral lease payments from the state of Utah to Grand County. The state of Utah collects payments from a variety of sources, including lease and royalty payments made to the BLM and to the Minerals Management Service of the Department of the Interior. Approximately one-half of the payments received by these agencies are remitted to the state of Utah, which in turn distributes about one-half to the counties. The state of Utah payments to the counties are based very closely on actual leasing and production activities within each county. In Fiscal Year 2003, Grand County received \$312,000 in mineral lease monies from the state of Utah, most of which was the product of oil and gas activities on BLM lands in Grand County. Corresponding figures for FY 2001 and FY 2002 were \$373,000 and \$647,000, respectively. The decline over the past three years has been due primarily to lower production, according to the state of Utah.

A potential benefit to Grand County from oil and gas production is in the jobs created, both in direct production activities and associated services. However, there are currently relatively few people employed in these areas in Grand County. Most of the current oil and gas activity is in the far eastern part of the County, which provides employment primarily to residents of western Colorado, who are located much closer to the activities. There is some employment provided to Grand County residents who work in the Lisbon Valley area, located south of Moab in San Juan County.

## 4.0 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ECONOMY AND PUBLIC LANDS

There is an important link between the management of lands and the health of the economy. The health of an industry translates into jobs and prosperity. The industries described above rely on the use of public lands. Also important is the relationship between the economy and the social structure of the community. The information below is provided as an assessment of the dependencies of land-based industries on BLM lands, as well as an assessment of the indirect effects of these industries on the Services sector of the economy.

#### 4.1 Tourism

The economy of Grand County is fueled largely by the tourism industry. A series of facts related to the recreation industry in Grand County, entitled the Economic Impact of Public Land Recreation and Tourism on Moab City and Grand County, was compiled by BLM staff in 2003 and helps describe the reliance of the local economy on public lands. It is suggested that BLM lands provide a portion of the recreation resources that draws visitors. The data states the following:

- Moab's economy is 58.5% recreation- and tourism-based, generating \$96.5 million in taxable sales of goods and services.
- Recreation and tourism generated local sales tax revenues of \$2.08 million for Grand County in 2001, representing 67% of total tax revenues collected.
- The recreation/tourism employment rate is 46%. Additionally, jobs directly related to tourism fuel jobs in other sectors. For example, the grocery store City Market is not directly related to the tourism industry, but its business is fueled by visitation to the area.
- 45 local recreation companies provide sales and rentals, repairs, river running services, tours, shuttles, camping and equipment goods and services. The majority of these companies profit from recreation on BLM lands exclusively. They employ 251 people full time, at an average salary of \$1,200 per month.
- There are 44 restaurants, 1,583 hotel rooms, 278 bed and breakfast rooms, and 1,101 commercial campground sites (Goldhor and Stevens 2003).

The input from the Socioeconomic Discussion Group has suggested that tourism is highly dependent on public lands. Lodging, meals, tour operators and other services are all found in the Moab area. However, visitors come to recreate on public lands. With the proportion of public lands being largely BLM lands (shown in Table 1), it is clear that it is a major attraction for visitors.

The tourism industry indirectly supports the services industry in Moab. As noted above, the largest sector within the service industry is in Leisure and Hospitality Services, with almost double the number of jobs of any other industry.

#### 4.2 Agriculture and Grazing

There are a total of 2,454,891 acres within the boundaries of the Moab Field Office planning area. Of that total, 2,329,910 (95%) acres are within the boundaries of a livestock grazing allotment. Areas not within the boundaries of a grazing allotment include lands around Moab, the surface areas of the Colorado and Dolores Rivers, Interstate 70, and the Pear Park and Spring Creek areas.

Of the lands within grazing allotments in the total County area, 1,794,798 acres (77 %) are BLM lands, 375,299 acres (16%) are state of Utah lands, 83,640 acres (4%) are private lands, 1,632 acres (>1%) are military, 1,146 acres (>1%) are USFS lands, and 73,395 acres (3%) are within the state of Colorado. Of the 77 allotments currently permitted, 64 are grazed by cattle, 3 by cattle and horses, 2 by cattle and sheep, 6 by sheep, 1 by sheep and horses, and 1 by horses.

Based on these figures, the cattle grazing industry is largely dependent on BLM lands: 77% of all grazing within the County occurs on BLM lands.

The Moab Field Office has 3 agricultural leases that authorize crop production on a total of 78 acres of BLM land. According to the Grand County General Plan irrigated agriculture and open space uses a total of 1,488 acres in the County. Using these figures, only approximately 5% of agriculture occurs on BLM lands, thus crop production is not heavily dependent on BLM lands (Grand County General Plan 2003).

#### 4.3 Oil and Gas

The oil and gas industry is reliant on public lands to permit wells. Permits for drilling and exploration must be issued by the BLM. Oil and gas exploration takes place primarily on BLM and state of Utah lands. There are some wells on private land, particularly in the Cisco Desert and the Book Cliffs (BLM 2003). The BLM estimates that approximately 85% of oil and gas production within the Moab Field Office planning area is on BLM lands (BLM 2003).

To a small degree, the services industry is indirectly related to grazing, agriculture, and the oil and gas industry. Money is spent to purchase feed, seed, and other required materials to sustain the industry.

#### 5.0 CONCLUSIONS

Population, economy and land are integrally linked in a community. Based on both traditional data collection as well as participatory data collected from the community, the following conclusions can be drawn about the social and economic structure of Grand County:

- The identity of Grand County, as expressed by the Socioeconomic Discussion Group, is strongly linked to its ability to provide outdoor recreation experiences on public lands.
- The Grand County General Plan expresses the importance of public lands to the welfare of the County.
- The City of Moab serves as the center for jobs, cultural activities, and political events of Grand County.
- The population of Grand County is growing slowly and is gradually aging.
- The population of Grand County has historically risen and fallen with the changes in economy.
- Since 1970, the economy of Grand County has changed dramatically, from a mining-based economy to a Services-based economy.
- Leisure and hospitality services are the largest current job base in Moab and are largely driven by tourism.
- The Grand County economy is seasonal, following the tourism pattern.
- Real wages have dropped steadily since 1980.
- Income from agriculture has dropped dramatically since 1970.

• The Tourism, Grazing, and Oil and Gas sectors of the economy are all dependent on BLM lands within the County.

#### **SOURCES**

## Data Used in the Sonoran Institute Economic Profile System for Grand County

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